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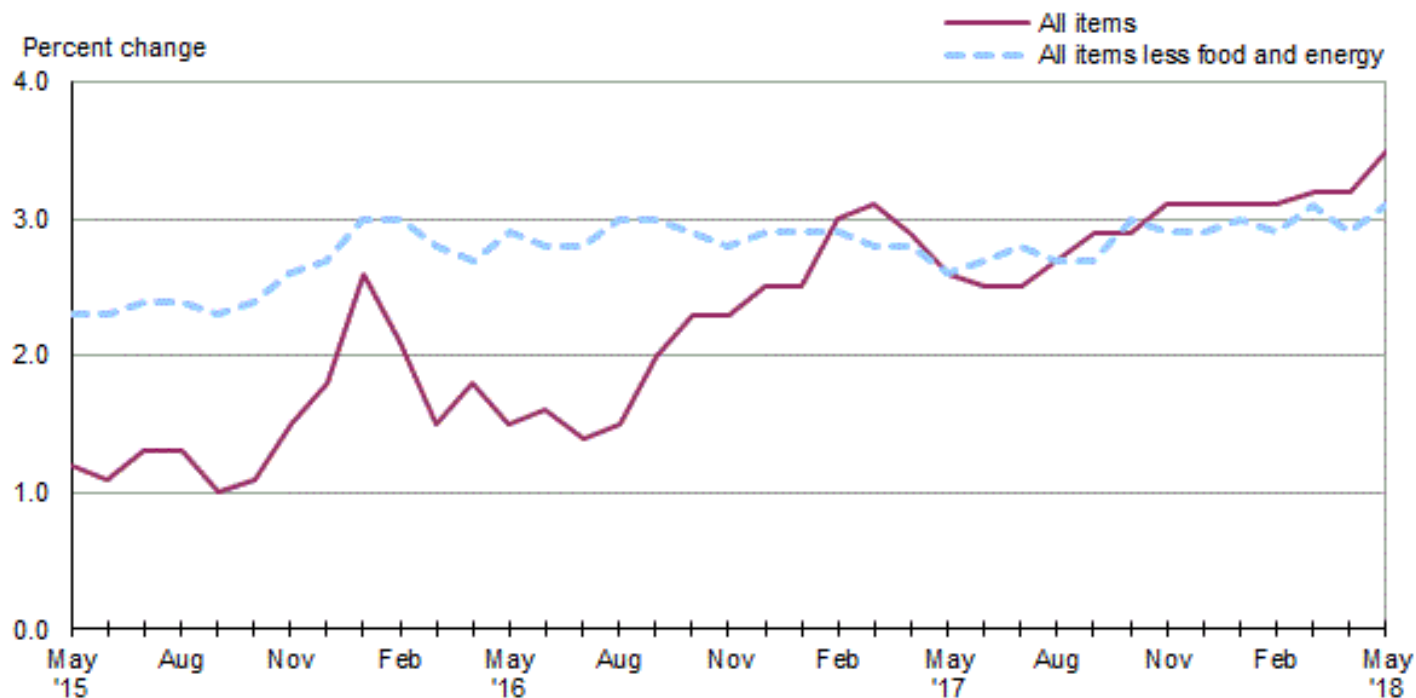
Consumer Price Index, West Region — May 2018

Area prices were up 0.5 percent over the past month, up 3.5 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 0.5 percent in May, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) The May increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and gasoline. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 3.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices jumped 12.7 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.1 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, May 2015–May 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged down 0.1 percent for the month of May. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home decreased 0.3 percent, influenced by lower prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (-1.4 percent). Prices for food away from home crept up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 1.5 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 3.5 percent since a year ago, but prices for food at home edged down 0.1 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 3.7 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (4.9 percent). Prices for natural gas service rose 4.4 percent, and prices for electricity increased 1.3 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 12.7 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (22.3 percent). Prices paid for electricity increased 1.2 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 3.3 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.3 percent in May. Higher prices for shelter (0.5 percent), recreation (0.5 percent), and medical care (0.4 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-1.7 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.7 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.5 percent) and medical care (3.5 percent).

Table A. West Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6	0.5	2.5	0.5	3.1
February.....	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1	0.6	3.0	0.5	3.1
March.....	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5	0.3	3.1	0.4	3.2
April.....	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.2
May.....	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5	0.2	2.6	0.5	3.5
June.....	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.6	0.0	2.5		
July.....	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.1	2.5		
August.....	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3	0.0	1.5	0.2	2.7		
September.....	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0	0.3	2.0	0.5	2.9		
October.....	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.3	0.3	2.9		
November.....	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7	-0.2	1.5	-0.2	2.3	0.0	3.1		
December.....	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	1.8	0.0	2.5	0.1	3.1		

The June 2018 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on July 12, 2018.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population.

The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2018	May 2018	May 2017	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2018
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	260.994	262.037	263.240	3.5	0.9	0.5
All items (December 1977=100).....	421.883	423.568	425.513			
Food and beverages	258.422	259.152	258.988	1.6	0.2	-0.1
Food	258.260	258.887	258.727	1.5	0.2	-0.1
Food at home	246.683	246.843	246.051	-0.1	-0.3	-0.3
Cereals and bakery products	258.468	257.067	257.138		-0.5	0.0
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	257.212	258.696	255.165		-0.8	-1.4
Dairy and related products	227.306	227.303	225.802		-0.7	-0.7
Fruits and vegetables	325.096	325.959	328.314		1.0	0.7
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	169.825	169.217	168.029		-1.1	-0.7
Other food at home	212.397	212.407	212.282		-0.1	-0.1
Food away from home.....	273.346	274.576	275.231	3.5	0.7	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	257.254	259.285	259.074	2.0	0.7	-0.1
Housing	283.968	284.763	285.962	3.9	0.7	0.4
Shelter	326.804	327.549	329.057	4.5	0.7	0.5
Rent of primary residence(1).....	344.503	345.911	346.695	4.6	0.6	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	343.115	344.234	345.130	4.5	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	343.116	344.237	345.138	4.5	0.6	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	295.361	296.545	300.626	1.3	1.8	1.4
Household energy	251.607	252.987	257.597	0.2	2.4	1.8
Energy services(1)	253.156	254.807	259.694	0.1	2.6	1.9
Electricity(1).....	285.080	286.660	290.388	1.2	1.9	1.3
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	192.315	194.318	202.803	-3.3	5.5	4.4
Household furnishings and operations	130.039	130.820	129.855	1.3	-0.1	-0.7
Apparel	120.474	120.914	118.820	0.0	-1.4	-1.7
Transportation	213.377	216.897	220.592	6.9	3.4	1.7
Private transportation	208.246	211.852	215.538	7.8	3.5	1.7
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	100.700	100.206	100.389	-0.8	-0.3	0.2
New vehicles	147.020	146.001	147.222	-1.5	0.1	0.8
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	102.119	101.409	102.250	-1.5	0.1	0.8
New cars(4).....	143.454	142.395	144.442	-1.3	0.7	1.4
Used cars and trucks.....	134.616	134.162	133.079	-1.8	-1.1	-0.8
Motor fuel	246.796	263.723	276.632	22.3	12.1	4.9
Gasoline (all types).....	245.739	262.783	275.640	22.3	12.2	4.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	242.874	260.153	272.991	22.6	12.4	4.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	234.631	249.448	261.436	21.2	11.4	4.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	241.566	256.204	268.167	20.8	11.0	4.7
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	824.374	824.995	835.102		1.3	1.2
Medical Care	491.089	491.184	493.298	3.5	0.4	0.4
Medical care commodities.....	378.301	379.122	386.046	5.1	2.0	1.8
Medical care services.....	526.583	526.431	526.890	3.1	0.1	0.1
Professional services	357.605	358.344	358.466	2.1	0.2	0.0
Recreation(3).....	114.298	113.495	114.078	1.0	-0.2	0.5
Education and communication(3).....	135.674	135.561	135.799	0.5	0.1	0.2
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6)	1,380.942	1,381.239	1,382.887		0.1	0.1
Other goods and services	433.408	434.942	434.750	2.7	0.3	0.0
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	260.994	262.037	263.240	3.5	0.9	0.5
Commodities	183.741	185.388	186.094	2.8	1.3	0.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2018	May 2018	May 2017	Mar. 2018	Apr. 2018
Commodities less food & beverages.....	146.501	148.408	149.403	3.6	2.0	0.7
Nondurables less food & beverages	191.230	195.852	198.339	7.6	3.7	1.3
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	240.668	248.276	254.061	10.2	5.6	2.3
Durables	106.213	105.975	105.794	-1.6	-0.4	-0.2
Services	332.527	332.917	334.595	3.8	0.6	0.5
Rent of shelter(2).....	347.957	348.755	350.363	4.5	0.7	0.5
Transportation services	315.796	316.800	319.606	5.7	1.2	0.9
Other services	348.440	347.053	348.412	1.8	0.0	0.4
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	250.474	251.555	252.716	3.5	0.9	0.5
All items less food	261.595	262.703	264.120	3.8	1.0	0.5
All items less shelter.....	235.254	236.418	237.502	2.9	1.0	0.5
Commodities less food	150.630	152.555	153.527	3.5	1.9	0.6
Nondurables	225.082	227.961	229.253	4.3	1.9	0.6
Nondurables less food.....	196.188	200.688	203.034	7.1	3.5	1.2
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	241.950	249.022	254.233	9.4	5.1	2.1
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	350.084	350.002	351.954	2.9	0.5	0.6
Services less medical care services.....	318.969	319.393	321.147	3.9	0.7	0.5
Energy	252.436	263.443	273.252	12.7	8.2	3.7
All items less energy	263.788	264.114	264.702	2.9	0.3	0.2
All items less food and energy	265.534	265.809	266.526	3.1	0.4	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	140.204	140.387	139.963	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3
Energy commodities.....	251.623	268.456	281.322	22.0	11.8	4.8
Services less energy services.....	338.416	338.739	340.249	4.0	0.5	0.4

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

- Data not available

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.